

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 11, 1999 LB 163

cars. That was, I think, referred to as R-12. They came up with an alternative that is environmentally friendly called R-134A, I believe, but the cost of that is somewhat substantial, about \$14 a pound. Now there's a butane and propane mixture you can use for two bucks a pound and put that in your car system instead and that cools your car down. Only problem with that is, is that if there's a leak in your system you have butane and propane under your hood and your car blows up, so that's a bad thing. So (laugh) 17 states have banned the use of this. It's...Nebraska should go.... I told you it was a simple bill. And it's also not only those who are trying to save money who are willing to put flammable liquified petroleum agents in their air conditioning systems. It's also a danger, frankly, to folks who work on automobiles. In fact, someone from my district was the one who gave me this suggestion and illuminated this concern. People who work on cars and so forth, they don't know that there's a highly flammable gas inside there. They assume that it is the nonflammable R-134A. So it's just a plain safety measure. The penalties are it's a Class IV misdemeanor, which is a \$500 maximum, \$100 minimum. So we're not throwing the book at them but we are saying in the state of Nebraska it's wrong, don't do it. If you do it, you're going to get fined. And it should be a criminal penalty, albeit a light one, but we should be on record saying don't put things in your air conditioning system that could blow up the car. I must tell you that the city of Omaha has done tests of this mixture inside cars. There was a deal...a news story in 1997 on WWT that showed the cars blow up. It's very vivid. I have the tape if you want to examine it. Otherwise, you can take my word for it. We did have support. There was no opponents. In fact, there was no one even neutral on the bill. With that, I would ask you to advance LB 163. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Janssen, for discussion on the advancement of LB 163.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. Senator Hilgert, I would like to know where you can buy Freon 12 for \$14 a pound.

SENATOR HILGERT: No.